

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented). A method for automatically starting and stopping an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle having an air conditioning system, by way of a start-stop device, the method which comprises:

automatically switching off the internal combustion engine, having been started by a person, with the start-stop device in dependence on multiple stop conditions, wherein one of the stop conditions is a release of a stop mode of an air-conditioning device depending, *inter alia*, on an actual temperature prevailing in an interior of the motor vehicle, and a further stop condition is an expiration of a defined variable time period, and the variable time period depends on a temperature difference between the actual temperature prevailing in the interior of the motor vehicle and a setpoint temperature desired by the driver;

wherein the time period depends on a relative air-conditioning performance defined as a quotient of the air-conditioning performance of the air-conditioning device and the temperature difference; and

calculating a threshold value from a link between the basic value and a learning factor representing a driver-specific manner of driving.

Claim 19 (previously presented). A method for automatically starting and stopping an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle having an air conditioning system, by way of a start-stop device, the method which comprises:

automatically switching off the internal combustion engine, having been started by a person, with the start-stop device in dependence on multiple stop conditions, wherein one of the stop conditions is a release of a stop mode of an air-conditioning device depending, *inter alia*, on an actual temperature prevailing in an interior of the motor vehicle, and a further stop condition is an expiration of a defined variable time period, and the variable time period depends on a temperature difference between the actual temperature prevailing in the interior of the motor vehicle and a setpoint temperature desired by the driver; and

wherein, when an air conditioning request is made by the driver and the internal combustion engine is not running, starting a timer to set a start time of the time period, and determining an end of the time period by comparing a current value of the timer with the threshold value, with the threshold value depending on the temperature difference.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The method according to claim 19, wherein the starting of the timer sets a logic marker.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein, when an air conditioning request is made by the driver and the internal combustion engine is running, incrementally comparing the value of the timer with the threshold value, and when the threshold value is exceeded by a current value of the timer, enabling a release of the stop mode of the air-conditioning device.

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (previously presented). A method for automatically starting and stopping an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle having an air conditioning system, by way of a start-stop device, the method which comprises:

automatically switching off the internal combustion engine, having been started by a person, with the start-stop device in dependence on multiple stop conditions, wherein one of the stop conditions is a release of a stop mode of an air-conditioning device depending, *inter alia*, on an actual temperature prevailing in an interior of the motor vehicle, and a further stop condition is an expiration of a defined variable time period, and the variable time period depends on a temperature difference between the actual temperature prevailing in the interior of the motor vehicle and a setpoint temperature desired by the driver;

calculating the actual temperature in the interior with a physical/mathematical temperature model of the vehicle interior, the model taking into account a plurality of variables representing an inflow and an outflow of heat energy under different operating conditions of the vehicle.

Claim 24 (previously presented). The method according to claim 23, wherein the variables of the temperature model include a geometry and a size of the vehicle interior, thermal insulation properties of the vehicle, a surface area of windows, a number and an electrical output of activated electrical consumers located in the vehicle interior, and an input of heat through solar radiation and through an interior heating and ventilation device.

Claim 25 - 26 (canceled).